

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-13 and 17 are pending. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated November 17, 2004 in light of the following remarks.

The present invention relates to synchronization of devices and systems. Synchronization is the act of aligning events in time. Synchronization in communication systems, such as those that distribute digital video, is used for accurate transmission and reception of communication data, precise buffer management, and distortion-free signal switching, for example. Synchronization is a central issue for many communication systems and has many variations. A global communication system often requires synchronization between geographically dispersed sites. Each site (e.g., a router) often requires synchronization between individual equipment chassis within a site. Each chassis often requires synchronization between individual modules (e.g., line cards and hardware components) linked to the chassis.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 3-4 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claims 3-4 have been amended to correct any indefiniteness. Specifically, each claim has been amended to include a functional/structural/connectional relationship with other elements of independent claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's request. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments are found in the Specification on page 4, line 20 to page 7, line 3, for example. Applicants submit that the amended claims are definite and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Noda (5,784,119). Claims 1-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (6,288,748).

Watanabe describes a television with an incorporated satellite receiver.

Noda describes a broadcast decoder.

Firstly, the claimed invention recites synchronization streams. Both prior art references teach MPEG video streams (the Office Action uses 17 of Noda, and a transport stream output by a demultiplexer 114 in Watanabe). One of skill in the art will appreciate the vast difference between a synchronization stream and an MPEG video or MPEG transport stream. The two are not readily interchangeable, and one does not teach the other. At the least, a synchronization stream is at a much lower level than an MPEG video stream.

A synchronization stream is used to synchronize the timing of multiple components, such as multiple line cards in a router or multiple routers (embodiments of the 'receivers' as claimed, as supported in the Specification). An MPEG video transmission stream is used to transport data. The two are not interchangeable. One would not use a synchronization stream to transport a movie or other video information. One would also not use an MPEG compressed video data to synchronize the timing receivers and hardware components. The two are digitized and packetized vastly different, serve entirely different functions, and the Office Action's interpretation of a synchronization stream (and mapping onto to an MPEG stream) is technically incorrect.

To the extent that an MPEG compressed video stream includes PCR data and other timestamp information, this is solely used to service timely delivery of video data included in the MPEG compressed video stream. It would not affect the timing performance of any device processing the video data. Independent claim 1 recites SYNC receivers that convert qualified system time events to one or more derived time events. Thus, the claims recite that a synchronization stream has been used to change the timing output of events and temporal performance of a SYNC receiver.

Independent claim 1 also recites "an input source for a SYNC stream". Since neither Noda or Watanabe teaches synchronization stream, neither thus teaches an input source for a synchronization stream. Other omissions are apparent in the claims to one of skill in the art. For example, claim one also recites "a SYNC decoder". Since neither Noda or Watanabe teaches synchronization stream, neither thus teaches a synchronization decoder as recited. An MPEG decoder would not be configured to deconstruct a synchronization stream, and the prior art references do not teach such decoding and deconstruction of a synchronization stream. Similarly, the prior art of record does not teach synchronization stream packets as recited.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Noda and Watanabe, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest independent claims 1, 8, 9 and 17 and that the independent claims are allowable.

Claims 2-7 and 10-16 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 9 and are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims.

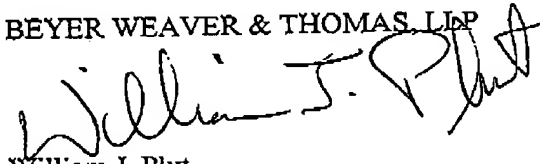
Withdrawal of the rejections of under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Response is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. CISCP211).

Respectfully submitted,

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Limited Recognition under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(b)

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**Expires: April 21, 2005**

  
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